

Remarks/Arguments

In the Office Action claims 11, 16, 19 and 20 were objected to as being improper for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. In particular, it was stated that claims 11 and 16 claimed subject matter already claimed in independent claims 9 and 10. In reviewing claim 11, which depends from claim 9, the lock counter-mechanism was further limited to include a clip having a neck and a head. The lock counter-mechanism set forth in claim 9 does not include these limitations. In claim 11 the lock mechanism was further limited by including a groove which accommodates the clip of the lock counter-mechanism. These additional limitations for the lock mechanism are not contained in claim 9. It is submitted that claim 11 adds additional features to the lock mechanism and lock counter-mechanism recited in claim 9 and that claim 11 further limits the subject matter of claim 9. Claim 16 essentially adds the same limitations just discussed to the subject matter of claim 10. It is submitted that claim 16 further limits the subject matter contained in claim 10. In view of the above explanation it is submitted claims 11 and 16 are in proper dependent form and further limit the subject matter of the claims from which these two claims depend. Claim 19 depends from claim 11 and claim 20 depends from 16 and it is submitted that claims 19 and 20 are also in proper form as they further limit the claims from which these two claims depend. It is applicants' position that claims 11, 16, 19 and 20 are in proper form and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this basis of objection for the claims. The applicants' have attempted to completely address this basis of objection for the claims and if there are any unresolved matters or remaining questions, it is requested that the Examiner contact me so that we can attempt to resolve this basis of objection as efficiently as possible.

Claims 8, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by the Berger reference.

Claim 8 has been amended to add that at least one other hole is provided in the vicinity of the lock counter-mechanism whereby the at least one hole in the lock mechanism and the at least one other hole in the lock counter-mechanism increase the elasticity of the friction lining in the vicinity of the lock to reduce stress on the friction lining in the area of lock. Support for this amendment to claim 8 is found on page 8, line 24 through page 9 line 3 and on page 11, line 29 through page 12, line 7.

The Berger reference shows a brake disc with keys slots at uniformly spaced intervals on the outer circumference. Metal keys slot reinforcing members are secured to the annular disc at each of the key slots. The metal reinforcing members are held in place with rivets. The rivets are positioned in holes that extend through the brake disc adjacent the outer circumference of the disc. The Berger reference does not disclose or suggest that the holes in the vicinity of the lock provide elasticity to the segmented friction linings as set forth in applicant's amended claim 8. There is no disclosure or suggestion in the Berger reference of accommodating expansion by the resiliency provided by the holes adjacent the lock as set forth in applicants' amended claim 8. Accordingly, it is the applicants' position that the Berger reference does not disclose or suggest the invention defined by applicants' claims and the Examiner is requested to withdraw this basis of rejection for claim 8.

As claim 14 is dependent upon claim 8 it is the applicants' position that the deficiencies of the Berger reference discussed with regard to claim 8 are sufficient to establish that the Berger reference does not disclose or suggest the invention defined by claim 14. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw this basis of rejection for claim 14.

The other independent claim, claim 15, covered by this rejection under section 102 has been cancelled in this amendment.

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In view of the amendment to claim 8 and the arguments contained herein, it is applicants' position that the claims present in this amendment are in proper dependent form and that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, a favorable action on the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
EMCH, SCHAFFER, SCHAUB
& PORCELLO CO., L.P.A.

By: Charles R. Schaub
Charles R. Schaub
Reg. No. 27,518
Tel.: (419) 243-1294

CRS/jle